# Alexander Dennis plans to end Scottish bus manufacturing risk 400 jobs



Alexander Dennis, a leading UK bus manufacturer, is facing significant upheaval with plans to withdraw key manufacturing operations from Scotland, putting hundreds of jobs at risk across the region. The move threatens not only the workforce at Alexander Dennis sites but also those employed by subcontractors closely tied to its production, illustrating the broader impact on Scottish manufacturing.

Greenfold Systems Ltd, a Dunfermline-based firm specialising in producing components for Alexander Dennis buses, has announced potential redundancies affecting up to 90 workers. Approximately half of Greenfold's staff are engaged directly with parts construction for the buses. The company currently operates from three sites, including Lochgelly and Chatham in England, but the Dunfermline site is central for bus-related manufacturing. The announcement has sparked deep concern among employees and local political figures. Dunfermline Labour MP Graeme Downie criticised what he described as the ripple effects of “economic incompetence” by the Scottish Government, highlighting the risk to these manufacturing jobs in Scotland.

At the core of the disruption lies Alexander Dennis's strategic review of its UK manufacturing footprint. The company has revealed plans to consolidate its bus body production into a single site in Scarborough, England, which would involve closing its Falkirk plant and ceasing production at its Larbert factory once existing contracts are fulfilled. This consolidation could affect up to 400 jobs at risk in the Scottish operations alone, representing around 22% of Alexander Dennis’s UK workforce and a smaller fraction of the global workforce of its parent company, NFI Group.

Paul Davies, Alexander Dennis’s president and managing director, emphasised in recent testimony to a Holyrood committee that the consultation process is still underway and that "it’s absolutely not a done deal." Davies indicated the company needs sustained orders, citing an expectation for between 70 to 100 buses by the end of the year and 300 to 400 for the following year, before stabilising the future of their Scottish manufacturing sites.

However, the uncertainty has already triggered hardship, with calls for government intervention growing louder. Some stakeholders have urged the Scottish Government to implement furlough schemes or other support measures to protect workers during this precarious period. Earlier in the month, Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes pledged to “leave no stone unturned” in efforts to support the affected workforce.

Unions, too, have voiced strong opposition to the proposed closures, with Unite describing the relocation plans as “devastating” to workers and the local communities reliant on the bus manufacturing industry. This sentiment echoes the frustrations of Scottish Liberal Democrat economy spokesperson Jamie Greene, who criticised the Scottish Government for what he called a failure to back Scottish manufacturing and bus building adequately, stressing the urgent need for constructive engagement between the government and Alexander Dennis.

Adding to the tension is the backdrop of significant public investment by the Scottish Government into Alexander Dennis, with over £8 million reportedly allocated to secure jobs in the bus building sector. Despite this funding, the company is moving forward with plans that undercut employment in Scotland, a fact that has drawn sharp criticism from unions who call for all possible avenues to be explored to safeguard the industry and preserve livelihoods.

Scottish Government officials have responded with commitments to work with businesses and unions to mitigate the impact. Richard Lochhead, Minister for Business and Employment, expressed his disappointment about the potential redundancies and outlined that Scottish Enterprise will seek to engage with Greenfold Systems to understand the drivers behind these decisions and to offer assistance where possible. The government’s Partnership Action for Continuing Employment initiative aims to support affected workers during such challenging transitions.

The situation remains fluid, with Alexander Dennis emphasising the need for a combination of regulatory changes and consistent orders to reverse or stabilise the situation. Meanwhile, the local and national economic implications of this potential scaling back of bus manufacturing in Scotland continue to cause concern, highlighting the vulnerability of a sector that once was a significant regional employer and industrial contributor.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[3]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/business-environment/business/5278795/greenfold-systems-jobs-at-risk/), [[6]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/400-jobs-at-risk-in-deeply-worrying-move-to-end-scottish-bus-manufacturing-5172347)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[3]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/business-environment/business/5278795/greenfold-systems-jobs-at-risk/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.alexander-dennis.com/alexander-dennis-announces-consultation-on-uk-manufacturing-strategy/), [[6]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/400-jobs-at-risk-in-deeply-worrying-move-to-end-scottish-bus-manufacturing-5172347)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[2]](https://www.alexander-dennis.com/alexander-dennis-announces-consultation-on-uk-manufacturing-strategy/)
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* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[4]](https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/business/unions-fury-at-devastating-relocation-announcement-by-camelon-bus-builder-5173253), [[5]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/18765110.anger-alexander-dennis-got-8-3m-job-securing-scots-public-funds-cuts-operations-third/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[6]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/400-jobs-at-risk-in-deeply-worrying-move-to-end-scottish-bus-manufacturing-5172347)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[4]](https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/business/unions-fury-at-devastating-relocation-announcement-by-camelon-bus-builder-5173253), [[7]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-53558309)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.alexander-dennis.com/alexander-dennis-announces-consultation-on-uk-manufacturing-strategy/> - Alexander Dennis, a subsidiary of NFI Group Inc., announced a consultation on its UK manufacturing strategy, aiming to consolidate bus body manufacturing into a single site in Scarborough, England. This plan involves discontinuing operations at the Falkirk plant and suspending production at the Larbert factory upon completion of current contracts. The proposed changes could place up to 400 roles at potential risk of redundancy, representing approximately 22% of Alexander Dennis' workforce and 4% of NFI's global workforce. The company stated that the consultation process is ongoing and no final decisions have been made yet.
3. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/business-environment/business/5278795/greenfold-systems-jobs-at-risk/> - Greenfold Systems Ltd, a Dunfermline-based manufacturing firm, informed its 90-strong workforce of potential redundancies due to Alexander Dennis Ltd's plans to relocate operations to England. Approximately half of Greenfold's staff are involved in constructing parts for Alexander Dennis buses. Managing Director Craig Waterson expressed uncertainty about the future, stating that the company is preparing for all eventualities and is under consultation with Alexander Dennis, hoping for a positive outcome.
4. <https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/business/unions-fury-at-devastating-relocation-announcement-by-camelon-bus-builder-5173253> - Unite the union expressed strong opposition to Alexander Dennis's announcement of relocating operations from Falkirk to Scarborough, England, potentially placing up to 400 jobs at risk. The union described the move as a 'devastating' blow to the workforce and the local community. The company stated that the decision was part of a consultation process and emphasized the need to adjust to changing market dynamics.
5. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/18765110.anger-alexander-dennis-got-8-3m-job-securing-scots-public-funds-cuts-operations-third/> - Alexander Dennis, the UK's largest bus builder, plans to cut a third of its Scottish workforce, despite receiving over £8 million in 'job securing' public funds from the Scottish Government. The company announced further job losses in addition to previous cuts, citing a significant fall in demand for new vehicles in the UK. The union Unite Scotland criticized the decision, urging the company to explore all options to protect jobs and livelihoods.
6. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/400-jobs-at-risk-in-deeply-worrying-move-to-end-scottish-bus-manufacturing-5172347> - Alexander Dennis announced plans to end production at its Falkirk and Larbert sites, potentially putting up to 400 jobs at risk. The company stated that consolidating operations into a single site in Scarborough would lower costs and increase efficiency. The Scottish Government expressed concern over the potential job losses and pledged to explore all options to retain manufacturing in Scotland.
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-53558309> - Alexander Dennis Ltd, based in Falkirk, Scotland, announced plans to cut 650 jobs due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The company cited a significant fall in demand for new vehicles in the UK as the reason for the redundancies. The union Unite Scotland described the news as 'devastating' for the workforce and their families, urging the company to explore all options to protect jobs and livelihoods.